

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----053578 091700Z /53
P R 091607Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0143
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 6774

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 9, 1977
(SALT TWO - 1330)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR EARLE AT
THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 1977:

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
AUGUST 9, 1977

MR. MINISTER:

I

TODAY I WILL RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF REDUCTIONS IN THE
NUMBERS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS OF THE SIDES.

II

ON JULY 26, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED THAT THE TWO
SIDES AGREE TO LIMIT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1979, THE NUMBER OF
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ICBM LAUNCHERS, SLBM LAUNCHERS, HEAVY BOMBERS AND ASBMS TO
AN AGGREGATE NUMBER NOT TO EXCEED 2160 AND TO LIMIT THE
NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS OF ICBMS AND SLBMS EQUIPPED WITH
MIRVS AND ASBMS EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS TO AN AGGREGATE NUMBER
NOT TO EXCEED 1200.

THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAS INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET

UNION IS PREPARED TO AGREE TO REDUCTIONS IN THE OVERALL AGGREGATE DURING THE LIFE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR HAS PROPOSED THAT THE AGGREGATE LEVEL OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS BE REDUCED BY 150, THAT IS, FROM 2400 TO 2250, OVER A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1981. HENCE, THE SIDES APPEAR TO BE IN AGREEMENT THAT STRATEGIC STABILITY CAN BE MAINTAINED AT LOWER LEVELS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

III

THE UNITED STATES IS DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROPOSED THAT THE OVERALL AGGREGATES BE REDUCED BY ONLY 150, AND THAT THESE REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BEGIN UNTIL 1981 AND WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL MID-1982. IT IS THE BELIEF OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THESE INITIAL REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE OF A GREATER MAGNITUDE, COMMENCE AT AN EARLIER DATE, AND BE COMPLETED IN A SHORTER PERIOD.

REDUCTIONS TO THE AGGREGATE LEVELS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITY OF BOTH SIDES, AND WOULD THEREBY LESSEN THE DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL WHICH CONFRONTS EACH SIDE. AT THE SAME TIME, SUCH LARGER REDUCTIONS WOULD NEITHER ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE SIDES TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP NOR PERMIT A SIDE TO ACHIEVE A SECRET

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UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.

THE INITIATION OF REDUCTIONS IN OCTOBER 1979, AS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES, PERMITS ADEQUATE TIME FOR THE SIDES TO PLAN THESE REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC FORCES FROM THE 2400 AND 1320 AGGREGATE LEVELS. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES SEES NO BASIS FOR DELAYING THE START OF REDUCTIONS UNTIL 1981. IN ADDITION, THE PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS TO CARRY OUT REDUCTIONS AS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION IS IN EXCESS OF THAT REQUIRED FOR DISMANTLING OR DESTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. THE 18-MONTH PERIOD COULD DELAY THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE REDUCTIONS UNTIL MID-1982, A DATE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE AGREEMENT WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE.

THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE THE MIRV LAUNCHER AGGREGATE. MISSILES EQUIPPED WITH MIRVS ADD SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS WHICH CAN BE DELIVERED BY A SINGLE LAUNCHER. WITHOUT A REDUCTION IN THE MIRV AGGREGATE, A POTENTIAL EXISTS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DELIVERABLE WARHEADS EVEN WHILE REDUCING THE NUMBER OF

STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, THEREBY UNDERMINING THE BENEFIT WHICH WOULD BE ACHIEVED FROM A REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL AGGREGATE. THUS, A REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL AGGREGATE WITHOUT A COMPARABLE REDUCTION IN THE MIRV AGGREGATE COULD CREATE A DESTABILIZING SITUATION. FOR THIS REASON, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT REDUCTIONS IN THE OVERALL AGGREGATE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE REDUCTIONS IN THE MIRV AGGREGATE. THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HEARING SOVIET VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

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USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 6774

EXDIS USSALTTWO

TO SUMMARIZE THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION ARE OF INSUFFICIENT MAGNITUDE, THEIR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE DELAYED EXCESSIVELY, AND THE ABSENCE OF A REDUCTION IN THE MIRV AGGREGATE WOULD UNDERMINE THE BENEFIT ACHIEVED BY REDUCTIONS IN THE OVERALL AGGREGATE.

IV

THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES ARE OF A GREATER MAGNITUDE, ARE MORE TIMELY AND DEAL WITH BOTH THE OVERALL AND MIRV AGGREGATES. ALL THREE ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL ARE IMPORTANT IF REDUCTIONS ARE TO BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES. THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD PROVIDE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A SERIOUS COMMITMENT BY BOTH SIDES TO REDUCE THEIR STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND WOULD POINT THE WAY TOWARD FURTHER REDUCTIONS. THESE INITIAL REDUCTIONS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO LIMITING THE COMPETITION IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS AND TO THE ENHANCEMENT

OF STRATEGIC STABILITY. TO DO LESS WOULD REPRESENT AN
OPPORTUNITY LOST.

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V

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS ITS PROPOSAL
WHICH WOULD COMMIT BOTH SIDES TO THE PROCESS OF SUBSTANTIAL,
TIMELY AND COMPREHENSIVE REDUCTIONS IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE
ARMS. EARLE

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